



*Stewards of the
Pedestrian Master Plan*

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November 10, 2011

To the City Council Budget Committee:

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB) supports the City's and particularly the Department of Transportation (SDOT)'s efforts to address funding shortfalls. SDOT has made noteworthy accomplishments in meeting the challenges of reduced funding through increased operational efficiencies, grant opportunities, and one-time revenue sources. This has allowed them to draft a budget which satisfies a number of important pedestrian priorities with few or slight reductions from previous years, for the most part.

Recent circumstances and newly released or pending information highlight where unfunded needs may still exist. Revenues from the Proposition 1 vehicle license fee that would have contributed to safety, maintenance, and pedestrian improvements such as crossing signals, crosswalk markings, maintenance, education, and enforcement will not be forthcoming. Yet these are precisely the areas coming to light from the recently released 2010 Traffic Report and the ongoing Road Safety Summit meetings as important for the safety of pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.

We have read that the Council is exploring the possibility of moving funds from certain areas of the proposed 2012 budget to address other transportation priorities. SPAB recommends that those priorities include safety for the most vulnerable road users as identified in recent reports and recommendations from the Road Safety Summits. These safety issues are too important to be left for another budget cycle.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jon Morgan, Chair

Cc: Peter Hahn, SDOT Director

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor and all the offices of the city on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the city may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the city's planning insofar as they relate to the pedestrian safety and access.

~City Council Resolution
28791